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THE
PLOTTER

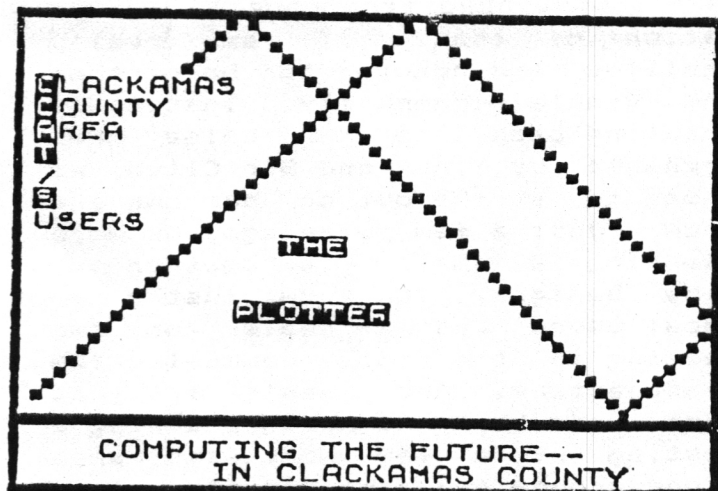***

MEETING

The JULY meeting will be:

on: FRI., JULY 8 1988

meeting room open at: 7:30 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
    FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
    OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
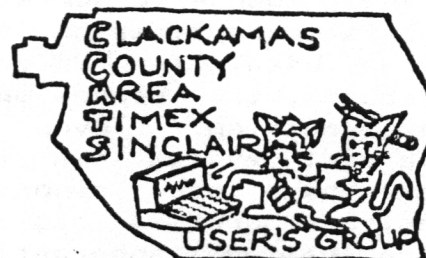IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

S O A P   B O X

It must have been the Rose Festival, or it could have just been the beginning of summer. . . We had a low turn-out at our June meeting, but those who attended did not let that dampen their spirits. Those who didn't attend missed the great fish-tale swap meet. Well, it did seem like we were swapping fish tales as we discussed the BIG ONE that Timex let get away. We reminisced about the BIG plans Timex had for the 2068 (and it does appear that they were alot grander than they ever let on), and we lamented their remiss in allowing the TS2068 & TS3068 to slip off their hooks. As we well know, the bait was taken, Timex simply did not play the line!! Is it true that the Big Bully Fisherman (IBM) chased Timex away in the hopes of having the river to itself?

The MiniFair plans are rolling along fine. It is a compliment to the Sinclair computers that their devoted fans are NOT giving up, but seem to be getting STRONGER & BETTER the longer they hang in there. The upcoming show certainly is an indi-

CLACKAMAS
COUNTY
AREA
TIMEX
SINCLAIR
USER'S GROUP

cation of that. I am really thrilled and honored to be part of the Sinclair community. Instead of crawling back into our holes when orphaned by Timex and Sir Clive, we chose to strike out on our own and grow. Just a few years ago, we were planning a small get-together at Time Designs. You know, just a few local users and a dealer or two meeting in the newly remodeled TDM headquarters. And wasn't it just last year that we were planning a meeting of a few Northwest area users groups and a couple of dealers for a fair in Seattle? Now we are planning a mini-convention, with dealers coming from across the nation and open to all interested Sinclair users. What can next year bring? Is a National Users Group just around the corner, with yearly national conventions?

Before leaving the topic of the upcoming MiniFair, I would like to once again send grateful thanks to all the busy people in the background and foreground who are making it all possible, especially Rod Gowen and Tim Woods. We also owe alot to the dealers who will be coming and to the support of the other Northwest User Groups. It will be wonderful to see all of the friends we met last year in Seattle.

A few meetings ago we discussed the topic of Computer Viruses. It has become an international issue. Even our military is concerned about this spread of humanly-induced diseases. The National Security Agency has set up the National Computer Security Center to help the military, defense contractors and other private companies cope with this problem. We are now seeing major software firms selling Vaccine programs to help protect computers. Some of the major firms recently infected include NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, information systems on Capitol Hill, George Washington University and, of course, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Even IBM's electronic mail system has fallen ill. There have been reports of video monitors bursting into flames in Silicon Valley, apparently by speeding up of the cycle speed of certain video functions! There are even fears that commercial software may be infected, because some of their company computers are carrying the viruses.

In closing, I would to welcome Betty back to our fold. We are always glad to see our long-lost friends return.

Sinclairly -- Michael E. Carver

SECRETARY'S SECRETS

by Jack Armstrong

The CCAT/S June meeting was called to order at 7:50 by Chairman Mike Carver. Merlin Raymond stated that he was disappointed with the turnout and Rod explained that he knew where several members were that prevented them from attending: Bill Dunlop was doing an engagement as Ohno the Clown, Duane Hewitt was on a fishing trip in search of sturgeon, Dick Wagner was at home recovering from surgery, Tim Woods was attending a staff party, Lynn Swan is now working swing shift and Gaylen Bench was working his swing shift job. The air show became a general topic of discussion for several minutes. Mike steered the meeting back to business by making the Library the topic. He reminded the group that we have many Newsletters from other Sinclair fans with all their club news and info on our favorite computers and their operation. He mentioned that QZX, which is basically a Ham NL has lots of 1000 information. He mentioned talking to Tim in reference to an article in PC. It seems that after publication, the author has softened his stance in reference to Sinclair machines, or, at least, the Z88. Rod brought up some old business in reference to the BBS. Nite Times NL had an article listing TS related BBS's and Rod will get copies available for us. He will list Portland BBS's including one with an "800" number. Rod has written letters to the various speakers for the Fair. He said that Jack Dohany will speak on 2068 disk systems. He also reported that Tim will have an overhead projector for the Fair and Rod will have a VCR hooked up and multiple monitors on line. He is going to

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mail the flyers to the East Coast addresses starting the 13th of the month. He said that he has seen good coverage of our Fair in other NL's. That enforces Mike's comments regarding the wealth of info we have in our Library. Rod has left message notes on the Nicholson Nite Time Network BBS for Fred Nachbauer. Mike has had some BBS response. Merlin announced that he needed Z-Talker software and/or hardware. (Before the meeting was over he had at least part of his needs.) Rod reported that the Fair Banner is progressing nicely--it will depict each of the Sinclair-based computers in addition to the Club Name and Logo. Rod mentioned that we need commmitments for ticket sellers/takers and table tenders for the Fair. Get your commitment to Mike, Ed, Ken or Rod soon. Old member, Betty Schaffler has rejoined the club, welcome back Betty! Ed Fry has some TS friends who will be attending the Fair. This revelation opened a new subject that was thoroughly discussed: Where are all those people who bought Timex computers over the years--are they still out there--closet users? Have they all put the little doorstop on the shelf, or are they muddling along without knowing that we exist? A general discussion developed over the demise of Timex as an active computer maker and speculations were voiced about the promise that was never fulfilled--who has those 3068 machines that were developed as prototypes, but never reached production. Someone, or several someone's are out there with them hidden away from the public, probably. We may never know. Mike mentioned a book that he thought most of us might find interesting: The Clive Sinclair Story. Don't wait for the movie. Rod said that we should have 2 meetings in July to finalize preparations for the Fair. Tonight's presentation was to have come from Bill Dunlop--it will have to come when he isn't on a Clown job as Ohno. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

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MINI-FAIR NEWS
by: ROD GOWEN

Less than 6 weeks to go and we are looking good! All of our plans are coming together for the 3rd Mini-Fair.

We now have verification on several of the speakers for the Fair. We know now that JACK DOHANY will be doing 2 seminars: one on 2068 disk systems and one on 2068 programming techniques. The latter will be a full question and answer session, the first will have a period for questions after a short talk.

We have heard through Rod Humphreys of ZXAPPEAL in Vancouver Canada, that both HARVEY TAYLOR and WILF RIGTER will be here for their seminars.

ROD HUMPHREYS will be the Master of Cerimonies for the planned Round Table session on Saturday, August 6th at 9 PM. I am sure he will do a fine job.

We have picked up a user group from the east coast! The Capitol Area TS group from Washington, DC area has paid for a table and Mr. Robert Curnutt and his wife will be attending and representing their group. Welcome! And thanks for the support!

You should have received your personal flyer/invitatin by this time. We have sent out over 2000 of them and more will be going out to the NW in a couple of weeks.

We think that this will indeed be, THE EVENT of 1988 for all TS owners! We just wish more of you could attend. We are looking forward to meeting as many as can make it.

As the next issue of THE PLOTTER will be the one to be on display at the Mini-Fair, we must call this our last update on the show. Keep watching for reports ON the show!

MSCRIPT'S REVISED PRINTER CODES
Dick Wagner

The current revision of MSCRIPT is 5.3, a major improvement from version 5.0 I have been using for several years. One of these improvements is an improved printer code method that simplifies using many printer codes provided by your printer. Originally, MSCRIPT provided for defining printer codes, assigning a number part of a code to one digit, as ESC or 27 might be "0", "20" might be "1", etc. This limited defining only 10 code parts and some codes are 3 numbers. Code definitions were set up within the text space as transparent or unprinted lines by starting the definition line with ">". Thus ">#0=27/+0" meant ESC (the + is added here to spoil the definition for text purposes).

For Epsom type printers the code ESC SO means double width characters, which means in dec. 27+20. Back in the teletype days SO defined "shift out". There are still a few of these teletype definitions still showing up in printer manuals. Anyway, MSCRIPT would define this as "#0=27/0,#1=20/0" and within text it would be used as §0§1(words) to expand the following words to the end of the line or until cancelled. NOTE: my printer doesn't have the copyright symbol so I am using "§".

My approach to using this system was to set up the definition at the top of text, usually those most often used. When a text save to disk was made these definitions were also saved. To do a new text MSCRIPT was loaded and then the desired text was loaded by name and the body of the text was deleted as a block command, leaving the lines of definition intact. The new text was then generated and that was saved as data. When ever that text was used the codes were intact. Thus I had a continuing "MENU" of printer codes available. A new code could be added if desired either by using another digit or if they were all in use,

simply reusing a digit. This may seem complicated but it has worked very well. Where I have a reprint of a page with special codes and arrangement, such as the front and last pages of of our news letter, it is all set up simply by loading the text into MSCRIPT.

In comparison, TASWORD uses predefined printer codes assigned to a graphic character. The definition can be easily changed but the names not so readily by making a text of the menu and then putting the menu back in place. Contrary to the statement that TASWORD prints what you see and MSCRIPT does not, MSCRIPT prints what is on the screen when printer codes are not used. The display width (in 64 character size) is adjustable from 1 to your printer width, 2040, standard or wide bed by side scrolling the screen when required.

Now to this major change--Jack Dohany of FAIWARE fame has reworked his version 5 to 5.3 for a fine solution to printer code problems. Not just 20 possible codes available as with TASWORD but 52 by inputting "§" and a selected letter A to Z and a to z where each is pre-assigned to a complete code of not more than 3 numbers. For codes of more than 3 numbers just assign 2 letters to each group of not more than 3. For example I use "p" for Elite printing which is 27+77+0 in the menu program. This is put in the text as "§p" where + is not actually used. To cancel just revert to Pica which is "§P"!

Technically all of the printer code numbers wanted are stored at addresses 35000 to 35153 in version 5.3 and new code numbers can be assigned at will by re-poking to replace the old ones, or use some unused addresses if available. I have programmed in some 42 printer codes that can be used within text writing. As the Panasonic printer I am using has 4 IBM type font sets that include line graphics, these are included so line and block graphics can be done with MSCRIPT. How about a form for invoices, or

Continued from page 4

order forms, or just graphic shapes made up of lines (horizontal, verticle, intersecting and crossing)? More on this subject another time.

It is easy to make the desired code changes. First, a text is made up from the one Jack provides. This is loaded into MSCRIPT and then the required changes are made just like correcting a text. I changed some, added others, and added a column for printer manual page numbers for ready reference. This was printed as a 1 page print-out. Several copies were made. Then this text was saved as a text file. Next I went to Jack's built-in poke program to easily poke the printer code numbers into the assigned addresses. This was then saved as a revised MSCRIPT CODE.

Obviously a menu of this magnatude would not be practicle to build into a word processor but there are several good solutions. I could load the menu text in each time and add my new text after it. A simple block print would just print the new text. To save the new text just make a block save or better, make a block delete of the menu before the save. I like my old method and am now using it. I simply selected the printer codes most often used and put them in non-printing lines at the top of the text. About 6 were selected. As they are non-printing (a MSCRIPT ability) they do not need to be deleted before printing. A save includes these codes and to get them again I just load a desired file and then delete all but the codes. Thus no hunting for printer codes is required. If I need one not in this group I just go to the printed list and select the letter assigned to that code! This is not a hassel with a long text because MSCRIPT has a "return to top" command, and there is also a "to the end" command. Both are instant fast plus 5.3 has a speeded up cursor.

BITS & BYTES
by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-has announced a new and HOPEFULLY, last revision to his famous LKDOS system. More details are covered elsewhere in this issue.

FRED NACHBAUR-of Silicon Mountain Computer Products in Canada and one or our most avid supporters for the ZX81/TS1000 has announced that he will no longer be involved in the retailing end of the business. He says that he will spend more time n R&D and leave the retailing to those who know it better. We wish him well in the future.

Although I am sure that there is a lot more news out there, I must call it quits for this time. Between work, the user group and producing the upcoming Mini-Fair, I am sure that I will be forgiven if I fall a little behind in the latest news.... no time to read all of those great newsletters coming in!

See you later with MORE!

LARKEN LINES
by: ROD GOWEN

Summer is here, BUT, if you are anything like me, you will not forget your trusty computer! I still have letters and articles like this one to write and without the trusty ol' TS, I'd be lost!

A couple of items this month: First, the news, and then I will turn it over to Jack Armstrong, who recently purchased the Larken Randisk and just HAD to say a few words about it.

Continued on page 6

In the news: Larry Kenny phoned me a few days agao and said that he had just about completed what he hoped would be Version 3.0 AND the LAST version of his LKDOS eprom. One new feature will be a mini-sequential filing command that will allow the user to LLIST and CAT to the disk. The new eprom will also have some improvements on the Aerco and Tasman Printer Drivers that are built in. RMG will be furnishing the new version to previous owners for $5 exchange plus shipping. If you con's want to be without your system while getting your upgrade, just send $15 and you will receive a $7.50 refund when you return the old eprom.

The price of DRams continues to climb. At present, RMG is asking $19.95 each for the 32K chip.

Well, that's about it for me! I will now turn it over to Jack. I will see you next time.   RLG

RAMDISK-RAMDISK-RAH-RAH-RAH!!!
by Jack Armstrong

Once upon a time there was Cassette! Life was hard. Life was full of line after line of garbage on screen when Ram-Wobble interfered with the flow of life. Frustration was rampant in Computerland. Then there was Velcro and Gaffer's Tape and Serenity came to pass. Time elapsed! Envy crept in on little legs of tales of Apples & IBMs with their disks and enormous areas of RAM. Then it was that the Stringy-Floppy came to the rescue. Sinclair owners rejoiced and gave thanks to the Gods of Access and Reliability. Jubilation was the word of the day. Still, there remained the arcane knowledge that Atari's and Commodore's had the great god of Disk Drive under their command. Unrest simmered in Sinclairville. The hint of unfaithfulness and downright desertion swirled in the minds of otherwise righteous and virtuous men of TimexSinclair. Then there was thunder--there was lightning--there was LARKIN! 2068's and 1000's were treated to a new world of speed and ease and a great new world was open-

ed for the faithful followers of Sir Clive. But, there was more to come! There came a new Demigod: RAMDISK!! Now there was immediacy--Now there was true instant gratification. It's almost as good as sex--without that dramatic ending. It does give one an incredible sense of satisfaction-you press a key and IT'S THERE! IT'S READY! And it stays there--ready any time you need it. With 4 chips it is a 128K storage space and with 4 more mounted piggyback, it becomes 256K of available space. And if that is not enough, with the menu program in place it is ready at the touch of a key to instantly (INSTANTLY) load one of the resident programs; those of your own choosing. You can also use this space to store anything else that you think is going to be needed in a hurry. My poor brain is areel at the possibilities. Let us pray that someone who is more talented than I, will take up the challenge and find more ways to use this marvelous facility. It is so super that only using it will show how SUPER!

MAY NITE-TIMES NEWS
INCREASING THE CHARACTER COUNT PER LINE ON TASWORD TWO
By Al Feng

Some people prefer the ease of use, and the WYSIWYG of Tasword Two over the cumbersome, but powerful MScript. A real advantage which MScript can boast is the ability to generate 128 characters per line (presuming your printer can produce condensed typeface). While this is NOT a new tip, some of you may not be familiar with this procedure whereby you set up a manual line feed.

Look in your printer's manual and determine which control codes you should use to set up compressed typeface, and dedicate a GRAPHIC key for this. If you're planning on MIXING text size in your final document, you will also want to establish a key to re-establish normal typeface.

More importantly, you'll need to dedicate keys to manually TURN ON the printer's CARRIAGE RETURN and LINE FEED [usually CHR$(13) and CHR$(10), respectively]. These will be inserted on alternate lines of your text. When you're ready to print, indicate that you want ZERO gaps between lines to nullify the automatic line feed mode. If you are mixing text, you will be printing the various portions of the text in separate blocks of text.

There is more than one way to perform this procedure. Regardless, I suggest that you first create you text. SAVE it one time to tape/disk. Then, indicate the beginning of the block which you want to print in compressed mode, and enter the GRAPHIC control codes on alternate lines which you want characters printed.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome back to past member Betty Schaffler. We have missed her many contributions at past meetings. I understand that Rod has made an effort to bring her up to date in the T/S world with back issues of THE PLOTTER. Betty was an early member of both PATS and CCAT/S.

I take issue with our Secretary's statement that Betty is an old member--past member but not old member. I'm an old member both in years and membership being member #4. I think maybe D.S. Lewis might be close or tied with me in age.

Now that I have worked into "past members", here is an idea to get a few of them to contribute to our Mini-Fair. Send a letter to each past member, inviting them to attend the fair or at least if they still have their "closet computer", suggest that if they wish to sell, to send to Rod by August 1 a list of what they have, model, printer, books, magazines, programs (cassette?), prices, etc. We could display these notices at the swap table and interested parties could take the lists they wanted and then get in touch with the seller. Suggest a 3x5 card size with name, address & phone on one side. By including a phone number visitors might be able to arrange a "deal" while in town.

Another computer magazine has called it quits. Chet Lambert has been publishing CTM magazine (originally Computer Trader Magazine) for about 8 years. His particular interest was amateur radio and computers so he attempted to cover all bases with articles on these subjects. He even published several T/S articles I wrote. He never attracted continuous T/S advertisers except Bill Jones (Up Date Mag.) recently. However, often T/S articles were the predominent computer articles. Chet claims neither he or his wife ever received any income for all of their labors.

Recently I took delivery on some software from Jack Dohany (FAIRWARE). The article on MSCRIPT PRINTER CODES was written about one of the several improvements to the MSCRIPT word processor. He also has an interesting mailing list/label application developed for this word processor. A write-up some day but for the moment this will be of interest--search and sort (alphabetical) by last name first line or by Zip code, including Canadian style, last line. Files are physically rearranged accordingly! His solution to what is a last name as far as the computer is concerned allows this to be defined for each such file requiring it--you know, spaced initials, Jr. or III after a last name, etc. This feature allows even a first name sorting basis if desired. Another program is VU-CALC reworked to permit the use of a full size or large bed printer for print-out. The result is a 19 column in compressed print (17 c.p.i.). A nice improvement is column numbers at the top and bottom of each column. It is even now possible to add comments, title, etc. at the top of a printed page. Another program I received is a Disassember/Monitor written in Basic. It was handy in searching for the addresses used for a menu in MSCRIPT mc that I wanted to add to.

Jack is doing something of special interest--providing most of his programs for the most commonly used 2068 storage systems, cassette, Oliger, Larken, A&J microdrive, and Aerco. Who else does this? The FAIRWARE address is Jack Dohany, 390 Rutherford, Redwood City, CA 94061. Ask for catalog sheets and order forms. Orders require details of operating system and printer. In some cases customizing may be required so expect a delay. Patience is rewarded!

Robot builders--write to Silicon Valley Surplus, 4401 Oakport, Oakland, CA 94601 for the latest catalog on motors, batteries, controllers, drive wheel assemblies,

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mobile platforms, even a $149.00
four motor robot computer system
(even keyboard, computer, system
programs, monitor, power supply,
etc.). How about a CPM Z80 computer
complete less power supply for
$128.00 including system software
(less case)!

John Oliger has his lastest and
last revision to his SAFE disk
operaing system EPROM. It provides
for ERASE and disk RENAME. He has
packed a lot into the EPROM,
including a printer driver program.

There it is readers--you read
my choices and my interest in
subject matter. Surely some of you
have received a new computer game,
utility program, purchased some
add-on equipment, had problems,
received a bum deal you could let
other readers in on.

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